

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology  
and Immunization Section**

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

**206-296-4774** Fax 206-296-4803  
TTY Relay: 711

[www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health)

**Health Advisory: Ciprofloxacin-Resistant *Shigella sonnei* Infections – April 15, 2015**

**Action Requested:**

- **Be aware of a nationwide increase in ciprofloxacin-resistant *Shigella sonnei* infections.**
- **Order stool culture and antimicrobial susceptibility testing, including ciprofloxacin, on suspected *Shigella* cases and use results to guide treatment.**
- **Recognize that men who have sex with men (MSM) are at increased risk for drug-resistant *Shigella* infections.**
- **Treat *Shigella* infections to reduce transmission of this highly contagious disease. Treatment is particularly important for patients at increased risk for severe disease and/or transmission to susceptible persons, including immunocompromised persons, health care workers, child daycare attendees and workers, and food workers.**
- **Report *Shigella* cases (including results of susceptibility testing) to Public Health within 24 hours (206-296-4774)**

**Background:** In December 2014, PulseNet, the national molecular subtyping network for foodborne disease, detected a multistate cluster of *Shigella sonnei* infections with an uncommon pulsed-field gel electrophoresis pattern. Isolates from this cluster were resistant to ciprofloxacin, a first line treatment for adults with shigellosis. Of 126 total isolates with antimicrobial susceptibility information, 87% were non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin. Approximately half of the cases were related to international travel, and the infection was also spread from travelers to others within the U.S.

So far this year, King County has received 26 reports of shigellosis, double the five-year average for this time of year. There is no evidence at this time to suggest that local cases are connected to the national outbreak. Twenty (77%) cases have been among males, the majority of whom identified as MSM, and several cases reported spending time at local bathhouses and/or having anonymous sex. Antimicrobial susceptibility data is only available for six cases, four of which were resistant to ciprofloxacin and occurred among MSM.

Public Health – Seattle & King County has requested that laboratories and healthcare providers report susceptibility data for all positive *Shigella* cultures to allow us to better detect and monitor drug-resistant shigellosis locally.

**Additional Resources**

- **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR),** <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6412a2.htm>
- **Public Health – Seattle & King County shigellosis information,** <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/shigellosis.aspx>
- **CDC shigellosis information,** <http://www.cdc.gov/shigella/index.html>